

REMARKS

Claims 9-11, 26-27, 29-31, and 33 were rejected as anticipated by SUZUKI et al. 6,036,300. Claim 9 has been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 9 provides, among other features, that the monitoring section monitors whether a decrease in vacant storage capacity in the storage section has occurred. SUZUKI et al. do not disclose a monitoring section that monitors whether a decrease in vacant storage capacity in the storage section has occurred, and thus claim 9 and claims dependent therefrom avoid the rejection under §102.

Claims 1-4, 12-13, 15-17, and 19-20 were rejected as unpatentable over SUZUKI et al. in view of YAMADA et al. 6,089,766. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The Official Action acknowledges that SUZUKI et al. do not disclose a monitoring section that compares results of the reading of a plurality of output images with one another, and relies on YAMADA et al. for the suggestion to modify SUZUKI et al. to include this feature.

However, one of skill in the art would recognize that the structure disclosed in SUZUKI et al. is intrinsically incapable of eliminating image failure by comparing a plurality of recorded images, and therefore, regardless of whether YAMADA

et al. suggest the technique of comparing output images, there is no motivation to combine the references in the manner suggested in the Official Action.

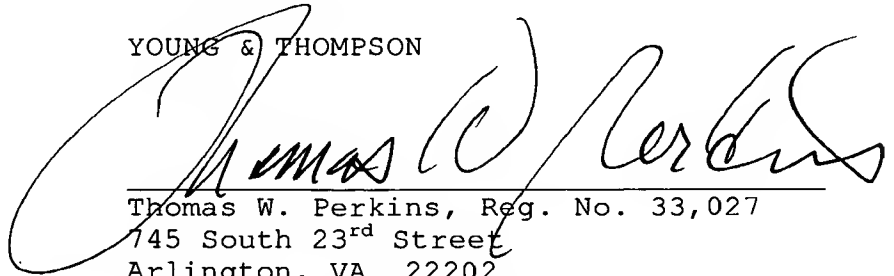
New claim 34 has been added and is allowable because the art does not disclose a fixing section downstream of the recording section and an image monitoring section downstream of the fixing section.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Perkins', is written over the printed name and address.

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